

### Inclusiveness Throughout Time

“Silence is the greatest persecution; never do the saints keep themselves silent,” as the famous French mathematician, Blaise Pascal once said. It is evident that throughout the course of human history, numerous affairs of persecution and non-inclusivity are present. Even with harsh punishments implemented if one was to help the persecuted, several brave civilians went out of their way to include and aid the persecuted group. Among the countless persecuted groups, two examples are the Jews who were always thought of as the lesser being due to religious differences, and African Americans who experienced violence and discrimination throughout history.

One of the most persecuted groups since the beginning of written history are the people of Jewish descent. Through early history, Jews were slaughtered, massacred, and discriminated against due to their religion. Along with that, they were falsely accused of severe crimes. During times like these, several people, mostly of Polish origins, hired Jews after they fled from the indignities they had to face. The Polish people also felt empathy for the sufferings the Jews were facing. An infamous example of discrimination of the Jews was the Holocaust. Jews were thrown in horrible camps that ultimately killed them, or forced into intense labor. There were unjust laws implemented against them as well as boycotts of their businesses and burnings of their books. Many people tried to help the Jewish people such as creating fake documents to get them to be able to escape or spreading the truth of what was actually occurring behind the closed doors of the Jewish imprisonment. After the Holocaust, the United Nations decided to create Israel for the Jewish people. This action proves how nations in the United Nations disliked the maltreatment the Jews faced during World War 2 under Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler. Throughout history, it is visible how many people wished to include the Jewish people when there was an inequity of treatment toward them even if there could be severe punishments.

Another group who faces equally as much, if not more, intolerance are the African Americans. The reason for this intolerance is perhaps due to their origin and differences. They originated from Africa; however, many were enslaved forcefully during the slave trade. Slaves were used a lot in colonial America, but used more in the South for agriculture. During the Civil War, the question of slavery came up a lot. The North eventually had the use of slaves banned, so many slaves from the South wished to escape to the North. Many anti-slavery Americans helped numerous slaves escape to free areas of the region with the Underground Railroad which was a network of safehouses that were dedicated to assisting runaway slaves. The citizens who assisted in the Underground Railroad were fully aware of the consequences if they were caught helping runaway slaves. They continued to help the slaves because of believing that the African Americans didn't deserve to be under slavery, and they were human beings as well. After the Civil War ended, slaves were freed, but still under constant discrimination. Through the work of many activists and protests, more and more Americans stopped practicing segregation and the Civil Rights Act was passed. Nowadays, many don't view themselves superior to African Americans, as what was done in the past. Currently, African Americans have most of the same opportunities that everyone else is given.

As it has been manifested throughout history, there was bias toward several races or ethnicities, but many individuals saw those groups as human beings, the same exact beings they were. Those individuals helped those escape or protest the oppressions and were fully aware about the repercussions available to them, but decided to stand up for persecuted groups. There are many inequalities still occurring to this day, some of them being the Rohingya genocide, a mass killing and persecution of Muslim Rohingya people from the military in Southeastern Asia, and homophobia, the fear or hatred of individuals from the LGBTQ+ community. The important lesson to be learned is that every life of a human is precious and not worth to be killed because of persecution or bias. Moreover, acts of prejudice cannot be fully prevented, but we should practice inclusivity, giving equal chances to all sorts of people, to all groups of people in the world no matter their race, religion, or beliefs.